

# **Moving Toward Equity and Sustainability in Rural Energy: Putting Gender Concepts into Action**

## **Challenges**

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**Challenge:**  
**Where do we go**  
**from here?**



***CHALLENGE:***

**“Genderize” Policy**



**“Genderize” policy:** *Change energy policies to prioritize needs of the poorest--rural women--and to provide access to sustainable energy options.*

- In what ways are energy policies lacking in gender sensitivity? At what levels?
- Where are there points where we can have positive influence?
- What lessons can we learn from other sectors that have made advances in addressing gender?
- What models exist within the energy sector from which we can draw inspiration and formulate strategies?



***CHALLENGE:***

**Fill information gaps**



**Fill Information Gaps:** *Recognize energy as an input to other development sectors. Establish data on impacts of rural energy (or lack thereof) on women and men: on productivity, health and education. Improve field approaches accordingly.*

- What data and case studies do we have? Where are they? What is missing?
- What are appropriate and measurable indicators for measuring the impact of gender-sensitive energy projects? What can we learn from other sectors?
- How can feedback from researchers to practitioners (and vice-versa) be optimized?
- What are the barriers to more extensive research? How can cross-sectoral research be stimulated?



***CHALLENGE:***

**Operationalize the  
Concepts**



**Operationalize the concepts:** *Identify strategies for adapting and applying gender methods used by other sectors. Avoid reinventing the wheel: build partnerships with gender experts.*

- What gender methods and tools are currently being used, and by which types of groups?
- How can these tools be adapted and applied? At which levels (community, NGO, policy-making)?
- Micro-enterprise and micro-credit are being advocated to improve project sustainability. How can women's access be maximized, while avoiding mistakes learned by other sectors?
- How can the energy “sector” partner with development organizations to address basic needs of the poor?





# Guiding Questions for Discussions

- ♦ Setting a baseline: Where are we now?
- ♦ Vision: Where do we want to be? In one year?  
In five?
- ♦ Strategies: How do we get there?
- ♦ Next steps: What concrete steps can we take right now? Who will take them?
- ♦ Recommendations: for future gender & energy workshops? for next Village Power?

